Nuggets Of News

July, 2003

News, Photographs and Events of the Gold Hill Historical Society, Est. 1986
Meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM at the Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon
(except August when the annual potluck is held at noon on the third Sunday)
Mailing address: Post Office Box 26, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026 Telephone: (541) 855-1182
Museum Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 12 noon to 4 p.m., except holidays
Admission FREE, donations accepted

Everything Old Is New Again!

As you open your newsletter for this quarter, those of you who regularly receive one are probably immediately aware that changes have been made. The first and most obvious change has been a return to plain black and white for all pages. We have also returned to a simpler, two-column format.

All who live in the area are aware Jackson County dealt history a crushing blow by drastically cutting funding to Southern Oregon Historical Society and all the members of Jackson County History Museum Association. With these drastic cuts we could not remain viable without many cuts of our own. A savings great enough to allow us to maintain a positive force in the community and to continue our mission to collect, document and preserve the history of the Gold Hill area could only be realized by returning to an all volunteer organization. On May 4, 2003 the Board of Directors made that decision as well as many others.

With great regret, we eliminated the paid position of Museum Coordinator and were sorry to bid farewell to Jayme Neil who joined our staff last October. She brought expertise to many areas of museum operation and her loss is felt. One of the many tasks Jayme handled was writing and publishing our quarterly newsletter. This task has reverted to volunteers who have neither the computer skills nor time to do the professional job Jayme brought to us. We hope you will bear with us, realizing our newsletter is a tool to keep you informed, and while not as pretty or professional looking, it will still hopefully attain that goal. Color printing of the cover page of the newsletter has also been eliminated due to the cost of color cartridges for the printer, plus the time required to handle different processing for pages of the newsletter. We have returned to processing with the copy machine for all pages, thus all black and white.

Other changes include (but are not limited to) discontinuing paid yard care and janitorial services. In the future these tasks will be handled by our volunteers. Other savings are hoped for by changing thermostat settings to warmer during air conditioning season and cooler during heating season, within the parameters that are safe for our artifacts.

The Internet with our e-mail (goldhillhs@aol.com) and website (www.goldhillhistory.org) were among some of the other items that fell victim to the budget cuts. While they were good communicating tools, the expense of the e-mail could not be justified while we have our old stand-by telephone with answering machine. The website had been donated for a year, but with only volunteer help we do not have the volunteer hours to maintain and make necessary changes to the website to make it a viable tool. It was with deep regret these items were discontinued but the cost and the hours to maintain them could not take precedence over our priority to keep the museum and organization alive. It is quite a challenge but we're trying to make lemonade with the lemons we have been given. We feel it is worth the work and effort required and hope you agree. Needless to say, we need all the help we can get. There are always tasks that need doing, and any help with staffing of the museum to greet visitors is welcome, as well as helping to sort and catalog the artifacts, arrange displays, research for information

requests and general history of the area, as well as many other varied jobs. If you have some time and would like to help us preserve the history of the Gold Hill area, we'd love to hear from you.

FISH STORY WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce we had two winners in the "Fish Story" contest. The winner in the juvenile division is Kaylie Williams from Tygh Valley, Oregon and the adult division winner is our own hard working member/volunteer Ted Wharton. Kaylie's grandparents selected a T-shirt with our GHHS logo as her prize and Ted chose one of our caps with the logo. Congratulations to both of you and thanks for making our contest so much fun! As promised, the winning stories follow...

IT'S ALL IN THE BAIT

By Kaylie Williams

My name is Kaylie. I'm 8 years old, and I love my Daddy and love to go fishing with him! I would like to tell you how I caught my very first fish when I was only four years old.

It was a warm summer day and my Daddy decided to go fishing and take me and my older brother Jace with him. He was going to teach us how to really catch fish using nasty old earth worms as bait. Well, I don't like slimy old worms, so while Daddy and Jace were messing around with the worms I took off my shoes and decided to wade around the shore where the water is shallow.

Now, as I was playing along the edge of the water, I began walking through some sea weed that started getting wrapped around my toes so I stopped. I felt something nibbling on my big toe. I looked down in the muddy water and seaweed and thought I saw a fish. Before I could run, he took my big toe into his mouth and clamped down real hard. I screamed and yelled for my Daddy and he dropped his pole and came running. When he got where I was, I fell down and my foot came up out of the water with the fish still clinging to my toe. It was a 1 pound bass. Daddy grabbed the fish, and had quite a time getting him to let go of my toe.

I was just thrilled. Jace and Daddy hadn't caught a thing with those smelly old worms and I caught this bass by just wading around. Who would have thought of using your big toe for bait. We had fish for supper that night, thanks to my big toe.

You know, I have told this story over and over again and only my Aunt Dana ever believed me. I sure hope you do, but if you don't, just go wading bare foot in the Pine Hollow Reservoir in Wamic, Oregon. I'm sure you'll get a bite.

P.S. You can leave your fishing pole and smelly old worms at home.

THE "UN-TOLD" FISH STORY

Submitted by Ted Wharton

PREFACE

A number of years ago, Jack Pearce, a brake lining salesman and good friend of mine, arrived at my place of business with an offer to buy lunch. No doubt a ploy to sell me on a new formula of brake lining just out. During lunch he told me of an adventure he had that was so un-believable that he had never told it to anyone prior to this time. Being

a "died in the wool" fisherman, Jack's stories were usually worth hearing so here's this one:

The "Un-Told" Fish Story

In his travels he had befriended a rookie "River Guide" who had a camp and tent set up some place on the McKenzie. This guide, a Bob somebody or other as I recall, persuaded Jack to come up to his camp for a day of promised (fantastic) trout fishing. Jack, being known to never turn down a chance to go fishing, took Bob up on the deal.

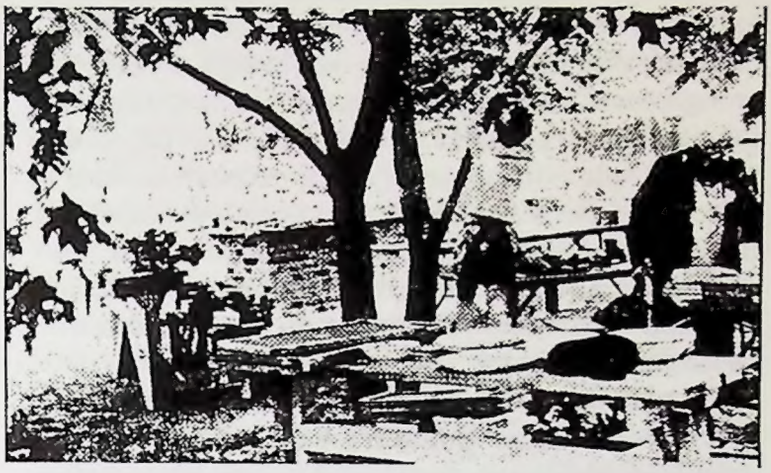
Bob turned out to be a fly fishing nut and upon reaching camp, immediately strung up a 9 foot fly rod and immediately began threshing the willows and occasionally the water with various gobs of odd looking feathers and hair. Jack, being more of the "eat what you catch" type, said to hell with that and having forgotten his tackle anyway, proceeded to cut a stout willow, tie on a hank of old line he had in his jacket pocket and proceed to look for bait. There was no bait evident in camp so in scrounging along the shore, he spied a sardine can. One of the early versions, oval with a paper label. Carefully cutting out the picture on the label, Jack threaded it onto the #4-0 Mustad hook that he had tied on the end of the 2# cuttyhunk line.

Meanwhile, Bob had disappeared down stream waving his rig in the air with great energy. So seeing a likely spot at the foot of a riffle, Jack plopped his unlikely setup into a little whirlpool at the edge of a rock where it immediately sank. Seconds later he was almost jerked into the river. A large steelhead (later determined to be 14 ½ #) had taken the bait and decided to head for the Pacific. Fortunate for Jack (or this story couldn't have been proven) the old cuttyhunk line held and the fish ended up on shore.

When Bob returned empty-handed an hour later, Jack had built a nice driftwood fire and was preparing to cook the catch. Bob to his dying day would not believe the story and accused Jack of landing a stranded fish with his bare hands from a nearby backwater. So I guess I don't blame Jack for not wanting to tell that story since it really sounds "fishy".

YARD SALE UPDATE

On Saturday, June 21st we held a yard sale which had been previously arranged and advertised by Jayme. We had so many wonderful items donated for this fund-raiser and wish to thank all of our members and friends who shared so generously with us.



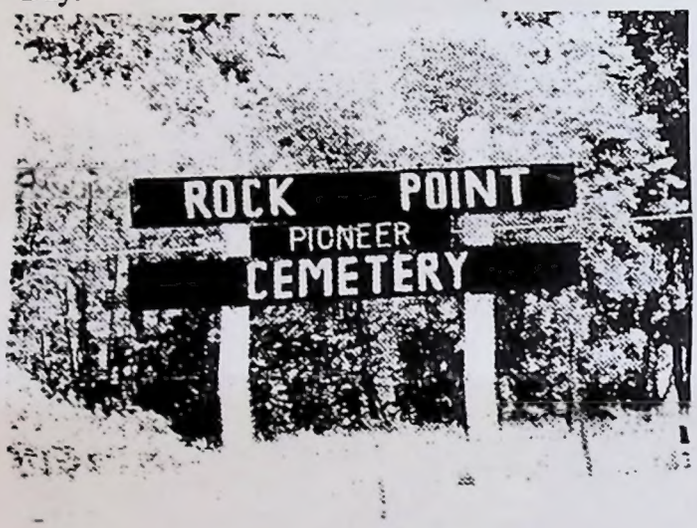
We were busy in the weeks before sorting and marking items and were delighted when the hot weather moderated and we had a beautiful, comfortable day for the sale.

Many, many thanks to our member/volunteers who worked so hard making this day a success. We had 135 visitors to the yard sale, as well as 16 visitors to the museum that same day.

CEMETERY UPDATE

There is not too much to report on Hays Cemetery. With all of the other activity at the museum, we haven't been able to get together for a clean-up day there. Good news, though, we are going ahead with a survey to establish just where the deeded access is so we won't run into problems when people wish to get in to pay respects to their ancestors. Periodically, this has been a problem in the past, and as guardians of the cemetery since the county deeded it to the Historical Society, we feel we need to keep it accessible to the descendants of those interred there.

Our President, Marge Martin, is also Sexton at Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery and each year schedules a clean up day shortly before Memorial Day.

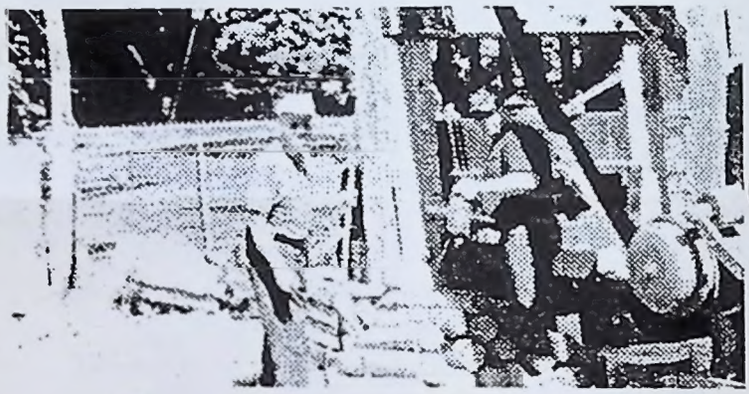


This cemetery is still being used and is owned by the Rock Point Cemetery Association. Rock Point Cemetery is also the repository of much of Gold Hill's history and they generously share as much information as they have available. For this reason, we try to help them whenever we can. This year, the clean up day was on Saturday May 17th.

It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the potluck lunch, which is also a part of each clean-up day.

COPY CATS

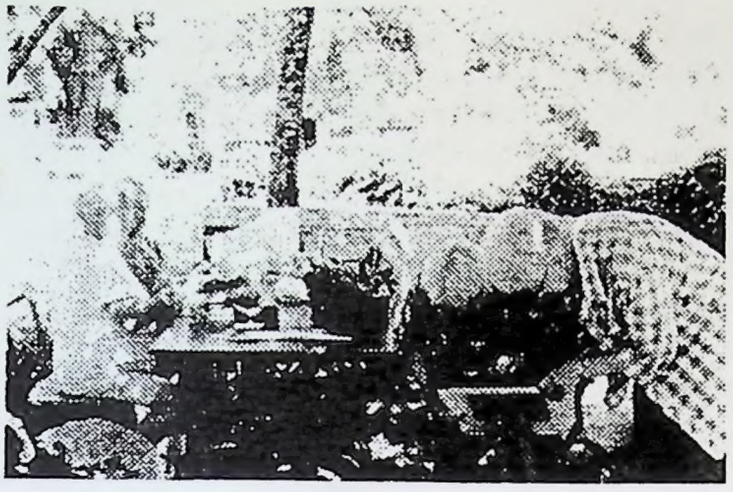
The clean up day with potluck worked so well for Marge at the cemetery that we decided we'd follow suit and try it at the museum. On June 8th we put out the word and our always willing volunteers pitched in and we accomplished a lot.



Ted Wharton & grandson Matthew Saddler work on clean up

There's still plenty to be done, but we managed to sort and mark much of the donated goods for the yard sale, and made a small dent in the yard clean up.

Rex Parker working on never ending repairs



Marge Martin, Clare Moore, Maureen Smith & Janet Sessions working on yard sale sorting and marking

The potluck was fabulous, as usual. We sure do have a lot of good cooks!

GHHS CALENDAR

July 10 GHHS hosts the Jackson County Museum Assn. meeting at 10 a.m.

July 16 Regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

August 17 Annual meeting and potluck begins at noon. We hope to see you all. Bring your favorite dish, your eating utensils and a wrapped white elephant gift for each Bingo card you wish to play. We'll furnish the beverages.

September 1 Labor Day

September 17 Regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

September 23 Fall begins

LABOR DAY

From U. S. Government
Department of Labor

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day Holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by **Oregon** on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York – created the Labor Day Holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania followed suit. By 1894, twenty-three other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday – a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is

ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom and leadership – the American worker.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

	1902	2002
Annual income	$418	$29,676
Work week	52 hrs.	42 hrs.
Life expectancy – male	46 yrs.	74 yrs
Life expectancy – female	48yrs.	79 yrs.
Size of labor force	29 million	130 million
White collar workers	20%	60%
Union members	3%	13.5%
Married women in workforce	6%	61%

GOLD DUST OR CEMENT DUST

Gold Dust was not the only thing to make Gold Hill famous. For many years, cement was manufactured here and bathed the city in it's dust. Following are some excerpts from an article written by Charles E. Rosecrans in 1997, which give a glimpse into the workers' lives.

ELECTRIC SHOP

Sometimes the electrical parts of the plant would work just great for a week or two. Then it seems motors had to be repaired or replaced. Most of the wiring and switches were original or came over on the Mayflower.

One of the main jobs of the electrician was to use as much of their own company power (as) generated by their power plant located on the Rogue River about ½ mile above Gold Hill.

Another very important job was to start the number one finish mill. There were nine things to do to start that mill and they had to be done in exact sequence with split second timing. Any mistake and the whole process had to be started over. There seemed to be more turnover of personnel in this Finish Mill department than the Electric Shop so it took fewer people to learn to start this motor.

Some of the workers in this department: Clarence Cook, Peanuts Miller, Alva Cook, Fred Eddings, Leo Rosecrans, Ed Prefountain, Don Dusenberry, Les Ettinger.

TRUCK DEPARTMENT

Most of the trucks were Fords with the small "85" engines. These had to be wound up pretty tight to pull those heavy loads up Blackwell Hill, Hayes Hill, the Siskiyous, and the Sexton Mountain. Of course there was no freeway then and the roads were very steep and winding. Consequently the engines had to be rebuilt often. It kept the mechanics busy. The latest truck was a new Auto Car. This was Roy Centers truck and no one else drove it. It had its problems but stood up better than the Fords.

Some of the workers in this department: Joe Lewis, foreman, mechanic; Harold Gist, mechanic; Doc Rosecrans, driver; Lester Dusenberry, driver; Clyde Kell, driver; Don Sweeny, mechanic; Roy Centers, driver; Mike VanHouten, driver; Sonny Hendrickson, driver; Bill Betts, driver.

CARPENTER SHOP

After many years the carpenters finally got their own shop. It was not very elaborate but it served the purpose. It seems there was always repairs to be made as the old plant had a lot of seniority. One of the greatest things they did was to add a room to the kiln department. This gave the operators a rest room and a place to cool off and to get some fresh air. They also raised the crown of the roof over the kiln room, this allowed some more ventilation, a God send indeed! In later years they built a much needed shower and locker building for all the workers.

Some of the workers in this department: Al Gweedy, Carpenter; Leo Rosecrans, Helper; Bill Fields, Helper; Bert Wright, Carpenter; Don Ferguson, Carpenter; Jim Rosecrans, Helper; Sid Anderson, Helper; "Squeaky" Stan Dresback.

YARD CREW

This was where most people hired out. They helped wherever they could like bricking the kiln, helping with the water pump in the river, cleaning the yard, etc. It seemed like whenever they were really needed they just couldn't be found.

When an operator of one of the departments would quit, (no one ever got fired) then his job would be put up for bid. Sometime if the job happened to be more desirable it could cause a "chain reaction" and rearrange people in several departments. Finally there would be an opening for a "yard bird" and if qualified the senior man got that job.

THE HYDRO ELECTRIC PLANT

The cement plant decided they could save money if they had their own power plant. After a couple of years in the courts they were issued a license to build the hydro electric plant. However it was only

to be used for the cement plant. (This caused more trouble in later years). The plant was built up river about a mile above the city of Gold Hill. At the time it had the most modern generators.

It did not generate enough electricity for the entire plant so they still had to buy power from the California-Oregon Power Company.

High water caused problems with this power plant. The flood water that bypassed the generators also backed up the tail race so that the generators could not operate. Of course in the summer time there was not enough water and in the winter ice would freeze on the turbines.

The hydro plant is still there but by law it cannot be used to generate electricity. What a shame. It is in a state of disrepair and getting worse by the day.

Some of the workers at this plant: Kenny Lamb, Howard Wilson, Ralph Hixon, Alva Wright.

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THE MANAGEMENT

"Moose" Muirhead, President
Frank Sutcliffe, Plant Manager
C. W. Martin, Supervisor
Vern Lugnet, Day Foreman
Earl Moore, Day Foreman, Hiring
Merrit Davis, Night Foreman
Fred Lewis, Night Foreman
Charlie Herman, Night Foreman
Bud Smith, Night foreman
Joe Lewis, Truck & Garage Foreman
Chris Christensen, Bagging Room Foreman
Frank Carter, Shop Foreman

Reprinted by permission from Charles E. Rosecrans

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GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/VOLUNTEER FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

☐ *Family Membership $6.00 per year*
New or Renewal

☐ *Contribution*

☐ *Yes, I would like to volunteer*
- ☐ *A few hours*
- ☐ *A day now and then*
- ☐ *A regular day*
  - ☐ *Monthly*
  - ☐ *Weekly*

Would you have time to:
--help at special events programs
--be a greeter at the museum
--help inventory artifacts
--enter data in our computer
--help plant the Memorial Garden
--other _____

Return form to:
Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marge Martin, President

Lyn Parker, Vice President

Janet Sessions, Secretary

Maureen Smith, Treasurer

Cindy Tilley Faubion

Ted Wharton

Clare Moore

GOALS

The Gold Hill Historical Society's goals are to collect, document and preserve the history of the Gold Hill area through Oral Histories, Photographs, Artifacts and Books.

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Street
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026

Eagle Point Historical Society
301 N. Royal Ave.
PO Box 201
Eagle Point,Oregon 97524